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81633 München (DE)(54) **Lacing system for footwear**

(57) A footwear lacing system having a detachable tongue that is attached to shoe-mounted rings and splayed by a shoelace is disclosed. The tongue includes a main body and radially extending fingers that form loops for receiving a shoelace. Rings, attached to the shoe, are configured to receive the fingers. Thus, the tongue is attached to the shoe by placing it over a throat of the shoe and placing the fingers through appropriately located rings. The fingers are thereafter double-backed toward a proximal midline of the shoe, and the shoelace is threaded through the fingers and tightened, causing the tongue to splay, thereby securing the shoe on a wearer's foot. Alternatives are disclosed including asymmetrical tongues, collar straps, and wherein the shoelace is threaded through a combination of fingers and conventional eyelets.

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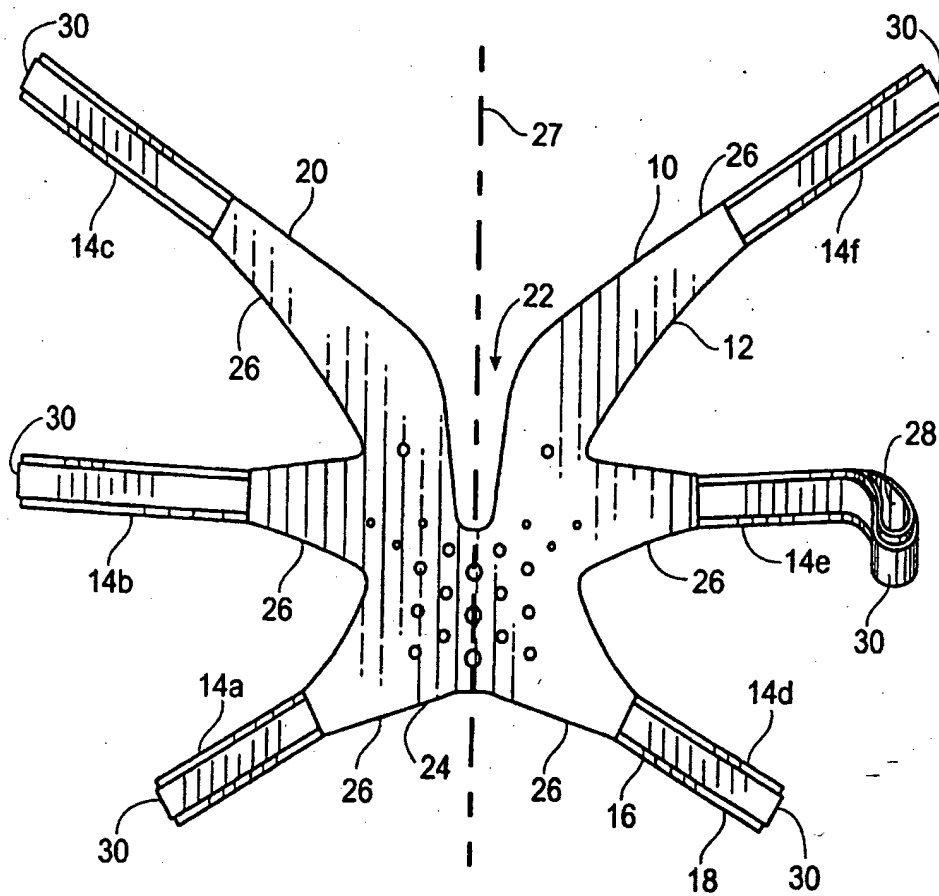


Fig. 1

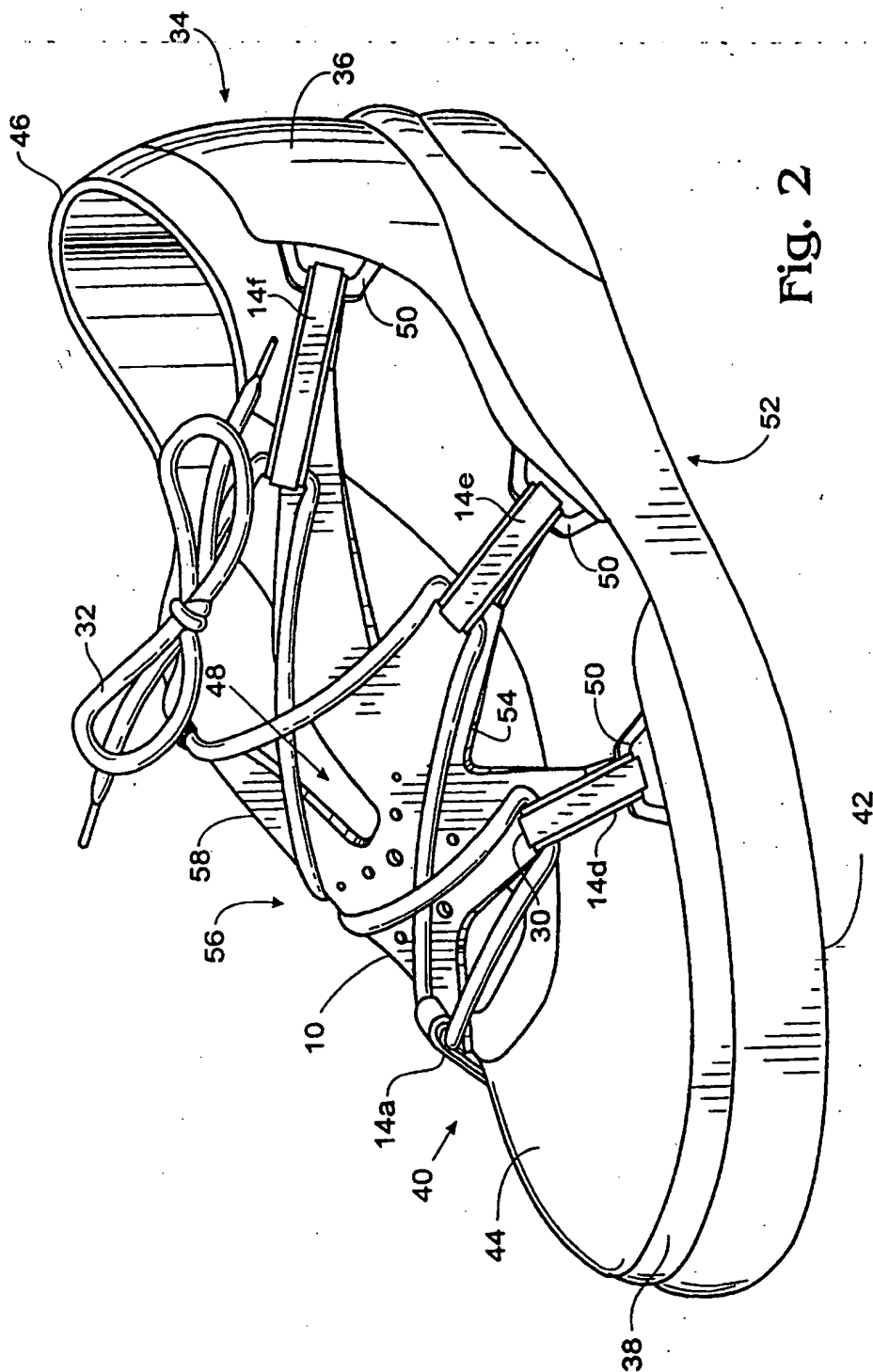
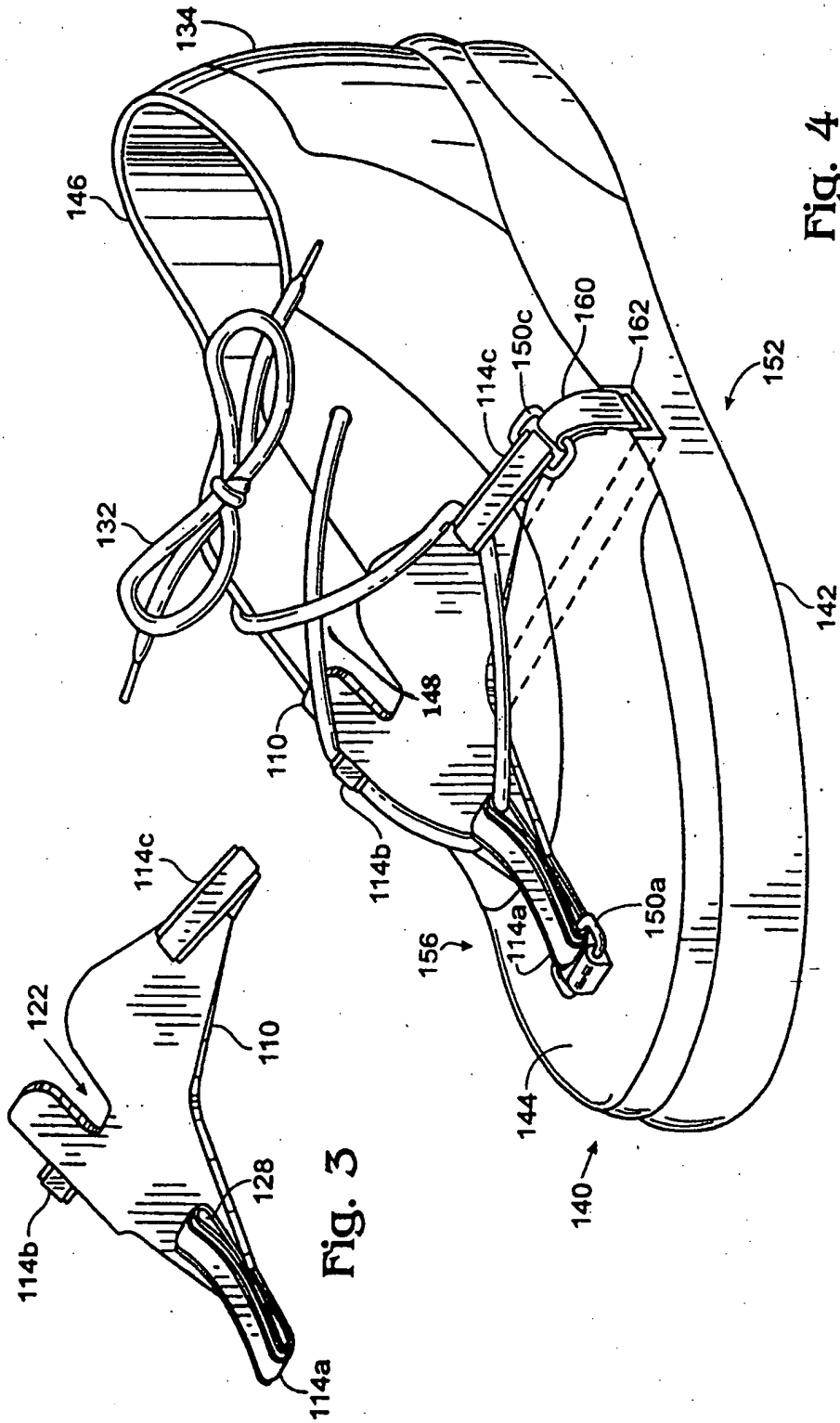


Fig. 2



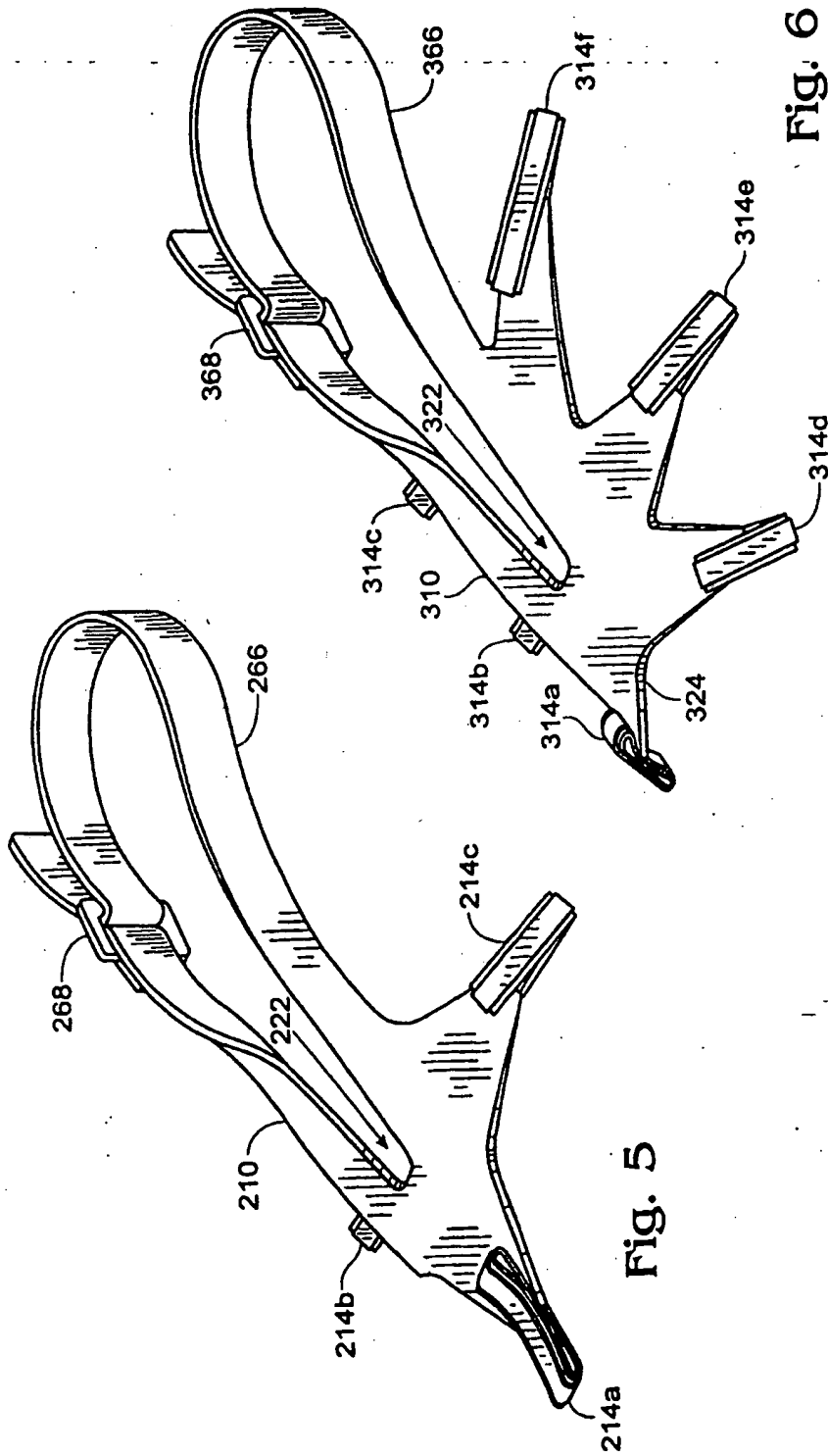


Fig. 5

Fig. 6

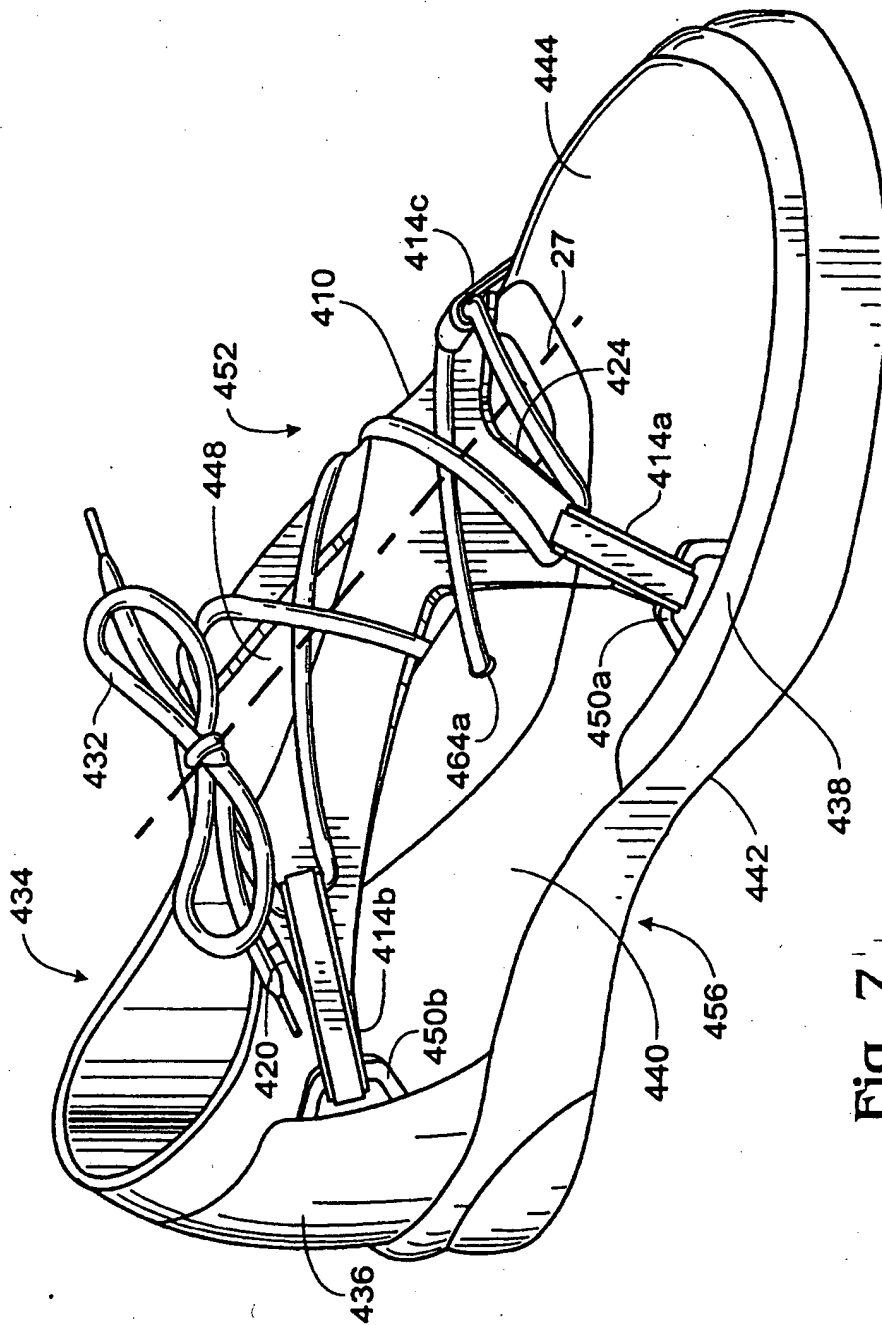


Fig. 7